



Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **WIFA Chairman Owens Announces \$300,000 Loan for Avenue B & C Colonia Wastewater System near Yuma**

PHOENIX (Nov. 21, 2008) – Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) of Arizona Chairman Steve Owens announced today that the WIFA Board of Directors has approved a \$300,000 low-interest, three-year loan for the design of a new wastewater collection and conveyance system for the Avenue B & C Colonia Improvement District, an unincorporated area northwest of Yuma.

The new system will move wastewater to the City of Yuma's Figueroa Avenue Water Pollution Control Facility. Almost all of the improvement district's 5,000 residents rely on septic tanks and cesspools, which lead to complaints about odors and backups. The tanks and cesspools also endanger the groundwater, which is only about 10 feet underground and near the Colorado River.

"This is an important investment for the health and safety of this community and to protect the environment," said Chairman Owens, who is also the Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. "This loan will help design the wastewater treatment project that not only will improve conditions in the Colonia, but will also prevent groundwater pollution and protect the Colorado River."

The WIFA loan is one piece of a \$1 million project that also will be financed by a \$500,000 grant from the Border Environment Cooperation Commission and a \$200,000 grant from North American Development Bank. The grants were contingent upon the district acquiring the WIFA loan.

"The funding from the BECC and NADBank would not be available without the WIFA loan," Chairman Owens said.

Earlier this year, WIFA awarded the district a \$35,000 technical assistance grant for a design concept and a \$4,000 grant in 2004 for formation of the improvement district.

The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona maintains and improves water quality in Arizona by providing communities and private water systems with access to low-interest financial assistance and technical assistance needed for basic water infrastructure. For more information, please visit WIFA's Web site at [www.azwifa.gov](http://www.azwifa.gov).